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OGC 63-0912

2 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Chief, Finance Division

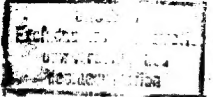
SUBJECT: Review of Agency Policy for Use and Reimbursement for Official Travel by Privately Owned Vehicle

1. You have asked us to review a 27 February 1963 policy decision by which the DE/S adopted paragraph 1843.1 of the Foreign Affairs Manual, Volume VI, of the Department of State, as Agency policy.

2. Paragraph 1843.1 states:

"... When three or more authorized travelers travel together by privately owned conveyance on a mileage basis, it is hereby determined that such mode of travel is more advantageous to the Government, and the travel expenses involved shall be paid in accordance with SGTR 3.5b(1) and (2), provided that, when a travel authorization specifies a lower mileage rate than that authorized in SGTR 3.5b(1), the provision of the travel authorization shall govern. (For the purposes of this section, two children under 12 years of age shall be considered as one person.)"

3. A 1947 decision of the Comptroller General, 26 Comp. Gen. 581, required that travel by privately owned automobile be authorized or approved only if "more advantageous to the Government"; the decision affirmed the authority of the administrative officer to authorize travel at a specified mileage rate subject to the condition that the amount allowed may not exceed the cost of travel by common carrier.



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4. We would think that it is also within the administrative discretion to recognize as a general policy that travel of three or more persons in a privately owned vehicle is no more costly to the Government at approved per diem and mileage rates than travel by common carrier of those same authorized persons. Therefore, we would have no legal objection to the policy outlined above. We would suggest that it be included in the [REDACTED] series regulations.

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cc: DD/S

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